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SENATE

Senate Bill No. **1271**

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino by his nature is humorous. We have been described as a people who despite problems remain happy in disposition and possess the capacity to laugh at themselves.

There is, however, a sector which has often become the receiving end or butt of "sick" jokes and these are the disabled.

Most often than not, and at the expense of the blind, the deaf, the crippled, the hair lipped and the amputated, actors and actresses use them to make others laugh, albeit, unintentionally. But such portrayal remains to be hurting especially to the particular disabled person.

The law for the disabled primarily aims to incorporate the disabled into the mainstream of society. If we are to do this and if we are really sincere in helping them, then we should stop ridiculing the disabled and start accepting them for as persons with dignities. Hence, early passage of this bill is requested.



MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT PENALIZING THE NEGATIVE PORTRAYAL OF A PERSON WITH A
DISABILITY IN MOVIES, TELEVISION, STAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF MASS
COMMUNICATION**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "The Media Protection for the Disabled
Act."

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. –

(1) "Person with Disability" shall refer to one who is suffering from any
disability as a result of a mental, physical, sensory or other impairment affecting his
performance of an ordinary human activity.

(2) "Mass Communication Media" shall refer to television, movies, stage, or
other cinematographic forms of communication and similar means of information
dissemination.

SEC. 3. Any person who, in the performance of an act before the television,
movies, stage, and other similar forms of mass communication, shall intentionally or
maliciously mock, embarrass, humiliate, or otherwise insult a person with disabilities
shall be penalized with imprisonment of not more than six (6) months and/or, a fine not
exceeding Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00).

SEC. 4. *Matters Not Covered by This Act.* – The provisions of existing laws, insofar as they are not in conflict with any provision of this Act, shall apply in matters not otherwise specifically provided for herein.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or section of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the other sections, and the application of such provisions or sections to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,